

## CHAPTER 8. CONDUCT A RECREATIONAL PILOT CERTIFICATION, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL CATEGORY/CLASS RATINGS AT THE RECREATIONAL PILOT CERTIFICATION LEVEL

### SECTION 1. BACKGROUND

**1. OBJECTIVE.** The objective of this task is to determine whether an applicant meets the requirements for certification as a recreational pilot under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 61, subpart D. Completion of this task results in the issuance of a temporary airman certificate, a notice of disapproval of application, or a letter of discontinuance.

**2. GENERAL.** The recreational pilot certificate was established in 1989 for persons seeking a lower cost alternative to the private pilot certificate. The recreational pilot certificate is intended for those persons interested in flying basic, experimental, or amateur-built airplanes and rotorcraft. Recreational pilots must operate in proximity to a home airport and in airspace that does not require communication with air traffic control facilities.

*A. Fifty Nautical Mile Limitation.* The recreational pilot may not operate beyond 50 nautical miles (NM) of an airport at which the pilot has received ground and flight instruction from an authorized flight instructor. If a recreational pilot wishes to conduct flight(s) more than 50 NM from the original point of departure, that person must:

(1) Receive the cross-country ground and flight training of 14 CFR part 61, subpart E that applies to aircraft rating held.

(2) Be found proficient and receive from an authorized instructor a logbook endorsement, which is carried in the person's possession in the aircraft.

*B. Eligibility Requirements.*

(1) If the applicant cannot read, speak, write, or understand English, then the pilot/instructor certification process should be terminated unless the reason is because of a medical disability. If the reason for the applicant not being able to read, speak, write, and understand English is because of a medical disability (meaning a hearing impairment or speech impairment that is medically

substantiated by a certified medical physician), then an operating limitation may be placed on the person's pilot/instructor certificate. A medical disability of this kind may require an operating limitation be placed on the person's pilot certificate that prohibits the pilot from operating in airspace that requires the use of communication radios. However, as a matter of clarification, this limitation would not necessarily prohibit a pilot from operating in airspace that requires the use of communication radios if the pilot has received prior authorization from the jurisdictional air traffic facility where the flight is being conducted, and the pilot is able to receive instructions from that air traffic facility via light signals or some other form of electronic means of communication.

(2) To be eligible for a recreational pilot certificate, an applicant must be at least 17 years of age, hold at least a current third-class medical certificate, hold a student pilot certificate, and meet the applicable requirements of 14 CFR part 61, subpart D. The medical certificate may be FAA Form 8420-2, Medical Certificate \_\_\_\_\_ Class and Student Pilot Certificate, or FAA Form 8500-9, Medical Certificate \_\_\_\_\_ Class. If the medical certificate bears any limitation which would require a special medical flight test, refer the applicant to the FSDO.

*C. Logbook Endorsements.*

(1) The applicant's logbook or training record must contain an endorsement from an authorized instructor who certifies the applicant has received and logged 3 hours of flight training within the 60 days preceding the date of FAA Form 8710-1, Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application, in preparation for the practical test.

(2) The applicant's logbook or training record must contain an endorsement from an authorized instructor who certifies the applicant is prepared to pass the practical test. In addition, the applicant must have a signed FAA Form 8710-1 with the authorized instructor's signature.

(3) The applicant's logbook or training record must contain an endorsement from an authorized instructor that states the applicant has demonstrated satisfactory knowledge of the subject areas in which the applicant was deficient on the airman knowledge test.

(4) An applicant for a recreational pilot certificate must have logged training and received a logbook endorsement from an authorized instructor on the training required by 14 CFR § 61.98(b) that is appropriate for the recreational pilot rating sought.

**D. Aeronautical Knowledge.** The applicant must meet the aeronautical knowledge requirements of 14 CFR § 61.97.

(1) The applicant must present a recreational pilot knowledge test report. However, a private pilot knowledge test report may be used in lieu of the recreational pilot knowledge test.

**NOTE: For the record, this is the only situation where the FAA has specifically allowed for a higher pilot certification level knowledge test to be used instead of the appropriate knowledge test. The reason for this policy is because the FAA made a determination that people who seek the recreational pilot certificate normally wait further on into their training to decide whether to seek a recreational pilot certificate or a private pilot certificate. Furthermore, the FAA determined that the private pilot knowledge test covers all of the recreational pilot knowledge test subject areas.**

(2) The holder of a recreational pilot certificate is not required to take a knowledge test in order to add a category rating to a recreational pilot certificate.

**E. Aeronautical Experience.** The applicant must present acceptable evidence of meeting the minimum aeronautical experience requirements of 14 CFR §§ 61.99 or 61.100, as applicable.

**F. Training.** The applicant must have met the applicable pre-solo training criteria required by 14 CFR § 61.87 and have received instruction in the flight proficiency requirements of § 61.98. The examiner must ensure that all required instruction is documented and all instructor logbook endorsements are present.

**G. Aeronautical Skill.** The applicant must demonstrate aeronautical skill by satisfactorily completing the practical test prescribed by 14 CFR § 61.96(b)(7). The test shall be conducted in accordance with (IAW) the appropriate recreational pilot practical test standards (PTS).

**H. Category and Class Ratings.** The category and class of aircraft used for the practical test is placed on a recreational pilot certificate. The following category and class ratings may be originally issued or added to recreational pilot certificates.

(1) Airplane class ratings:

(a) SINGLE-ENGINE LAND.

(b) SINGLE-ENGINE SEA.

(2) Rotorcraft class ratings:

(a) HELICOPTER.

(b) GYROPLANE.

**I. Limitations.** The Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) shall enter the notation "Holder does not meet ICAO requirements" on all recreational pilot certificates issued (see Figure 81). Other possible limitations may include "Passenger carrying prohibited on flights more than 10 NM from [enter name of appropriate island]" on the certificate of an applicant whose aeronautical experience qualifies the applicant under § 61.100. This limitation may be removed by a DPE upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of compliance with the requirements of § 61.99(a)(1).

**3. ADDITIONAL CATEGORY AND CLASS RATINGS.** A recreational pilot seeking an additional category/class rating must meet the appropriate aeronautical knowledge, experience, and instruction requirements, carry a logbook that has been endorsed by an authorized instructor for each solo flight in an aircraft for which the pilot is not rated, and satisfactorily complete the appropriate practical test. An additional knowledge test is not required.

**4. UPGRADING TO A PRIVATE PILOT CERTIFICATE.** A recreational pilot who desires certification as a private pilot must meet all the eligibility requirements for the private pilot certificate, appropriate to the category and class rating sought.

*A. Knowledge Test.* The applicant must present an appropriate knowledge test report for the private pilot certificate and rating sought.

*B. Flight Instructor Endorsements.* In order to complete all of the additional aeronautical experience required for the private pilot certificate, the recreational pilot must have a logbook endorsement from an authorized instructor for each flight conducted that was not allowed under recreational pilot privileges and limitations.

*C. Upgrading to a Different Category.* If an applicant holds a recreational pilot certificate in one category of

aircraft and satisfactorily completes a practical test for a private pilot certificate in another category of aircraft, the recreational pilot certificate is superseded. The new private pilot certificate notes the category and class of the aircraft used for the private pilot practical test and indicates recreational pilot privileges in the category and class of aircraft that was on the superseded certificate.

**NOTE: For those aircraft category and class ratings that remain at the recreational pilot certification level, the certificate will continue to show the limitation “Holder does not meet ICAO requirements.”**

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## SECTION 2. PROCEDURES

### 1. PREREQUISITES AND COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS.

*A. Prerequisites.* This task requires knowledge of 14 CFR part 61, familiarity with the recreational pilot PTS, and designation as a private pilot examiner (PE) in the applicable category and class.

*B. Coordination.* This task requires coordination with the supervising Flight Standards District Office (FSDO).

### 2. REFERENCES, FORMS, AND JOB AIDS.

#### *A. References.*

- Title 14 CFR parts 61 and 91
- FAA-S-8081-3, Recreational Pilot Practical Test Standards

#### *B. Forms.*

- FAA Form 8060-4, Temporary Airman Certificate
- FAA Form 8060-5, Notice of Disapproval of Application
- FAA Form 8420-2, Medical Certificate \_\_\_\_\_ Class and Student Pilot Certificate
- FAA Form 8500-9, Medical Certificate \_\_\_\_\_ Class
- FAA Form 8710-1, Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application

#### *C. Job Aids.*

- Figure 8-1

### 3. PROCEDURES.

*A. Schedule Appointment.* Advise the applicant to bring the following documents and records to the appointment:

(1) FAA Form 8710-1 must be completed in ink or typewritten and signed by the applicant. Per 14 CFR

§ 61.39(a)(7), the applicant must complete Section III, Record of Pilot Time. As a special emphasis item, the examiner must review the applicant's aeronautical experience recorded on FAA Form 8710-1 and in the applicant's logbook/training record to ensure compliance with the appropriate aeronautical experience requirements for the certificate and/or rating sought.

(a) In Section III on FAA Form 8710-1, Record of Pilot Time, the applicant must list at least the aeronautical experience required for the airmen certificate and rating sought. Graduates of part 141 pilot schools or part 142 training centers must provide their aeronautical experience in Section III even though the graduation certificate is evidence of having completed the course of training.

(b) If aeronautical experience has no bearing on the airman certification action being sought, it is not necessary for an applicant to complete Section III. For example, flight instructor renewal applications, flight instructor reinstatement applications, ground instructor qualification applications, and pilot type rating applications would be examples for which aeronautical experience would not have a bearing on the airmen certification action; thus, the applicant would not be required to complete Section III of the application. However, all applicants are encouraged to complete Section III because it remains on file with the FAA and can be used to substantiate past aeronautical experience in the case of a lost logbook.

(2) A student pilot certificate, or an airman certificate if for an additional category/class rating;

(3) FAA Form 8420-2 or FAA Form 8500-9;

(4) A recreational pilot or private pilot knowledge test report, if applicable;

(5) A logbook or other records substantiating the aeronautical experience shown on the applicant's FAA Form 8710-1;

(6) The aircraft maintenance records;

(7) The aircraft airworthiness certificate;

- (8) The aircraft registration; and
- (9) An acceptable form of photo identification.

*B. Applicant Arrives for Appointment.* Collect and review the applicant's FAA Form 8710-1 and logbook/training record. If the applicant has not brought all of the necessary documents, explain what is needed and return the documents to the applicant. Reschedule the appointment, if the applicant requests you to do so.

(1) If the applicant has not brought all of the necessary documents, explain what is needed and return the documents to the applicant.

(2) Reschedule the appointment if requested to do so.

*C. Review Application.* Verify that the information on FAA Form 8710-1 is accurate, legible, and complete.

(1) In Section I, ensure that the applicant has checked "Recreational." If the applicant is seeking an additional aircraft rating, ensure that the applicant has checked "Additional Aircraft Rating" and the appropriate aircraft category.

(2) Ensure that the remainder of FAA Form 87101 is completed IAW the instructions attached to the form and the information in chapter 5, section 1, paragraph 22.

(3) Ensure that the flight instructor has signed an endorsement no more than 60 days before FAA Form 8710-1 was submitted. This endorsement should be on the signed FAA Form 8710-1. Review the applicant's training record or logbook to ensure the applicant has received at least 3 hours of training within the 60 days prior to the practical test.

*D. Verify Applicant's Identity.* Inspect acceptable forms of identification to establish the applicant's identity IAW the procedures described in chapter 5, section 1, paragraph 20B(1).

(1) Compare the identification with the personal information provided on FAA Form 87101.

(2) When the applicant's identity is verified, continue with the practical test.

(3) If the applicant's identity appears to be different from the information supplied on FAA Form 8710-1, or it appears that an attempt at falsification has been made, discontinue the task and immediately report this to the FSDO.

*E. Establish Eligibility.* Determine that the applicant meets the specific eligibility, knowledge, and experience requirements for certification as a recreational pilot. (See 14 CFR §§ 61.96, 61.97, 61.98, 61.99, and 61.100, as applicable.)

(1) If the applicant cannot read, speak, write, or understand English, then the pilot/instructor certification process should be terminated unless the reason is because of a medical disability. If the reason for the applicant not being able to read, speak, write, and understand English is because of a medical disability (meaning a hearing impairment or speech impairment that is medically substantiated by a certified medical physician), then an operating limitation may be placed on the person's pilot/instructor certificate. A medical disability of this kind may require an operating limitation be placed on the person's pilot certificate that prohibits the pilot from operating in airspace that requires the use of communication radios. However, as a matter of clarification, this limitation would not necessarily prohibit a pilot from operating in airspace that requires the use of communication radios if the pilot has received prior authorization from the jurisdictional air traffic facility where the flight is being conducted, and the pilot is able to receive instructions from that air traffic facility via light signals or some other form of electronic means of communication.

(2) Ensure that the applicant holds at least a third-class medical certificate.

(3) Inspect the applicant's medical certificate to ensure that it does not bear any limitation that would make a special medical flight test necessary.

(4) Inspect the applicant's student pilot certificate for current solo and solo cross-country endorsements.

(5) Check the record of flight time in Section III of FAA Form 8710-1 to determine that the applicant has the minimum aeronautical experience required for the certificate and rating sought.

(6) Examine the applicant's logbook and/or other reliable record(s)/training record(s) to verify that all aeronautical knowledge, aeronautical experience, and required instructor endorsements (see section 1, paragraph 2C of this chapter) are recorded.

(7) Examine the knowledge test report.

(8) If the applicant has checked the "Yes" box of Section IV of FAA Form 8710-1, verify that the applicant meets the requirements of 14 CFR § 61.49.

(9) If the applicant is located on an island from which the required flights cannot be accomplished without flying over water, refer to § 61.100.

(10) If the applicant is applying for a test on the basis of graduation from an approved training program, inspect the applicant's graduation certificate to verify that the applicant is in compliance with the requirements of § 61.71.

(11) If the applicant is a graduate of an approved pilot school, the examiner should check the applicant's graduation certificate to ensure that the applicant will be able to pass the practical test within 60 days from the date on the graduation certificate. If not, the applicant must apply for the pilot certificate or rating under part 61 and meet all the applicable aeronautical experience requirements under part 61 for the pilot certificate or rating sought.

*F. Requirements for an Additional Category/Class Rating.* The requirements are the same as in paragraph 3E of this section except that the knowledge test is not required.

*G. Aircraft Requirements.* Ensure the applicant has the proper aircraft maintenance records, logbooks, airworthiness certificate, and aircraft registration to determine that the aircraft is airworthy and suitable for the practical test. After review, return the documents to the applicant.

*H. Discrepancies.* If a discrepancy that cannot be immediately corrected exists in any of the documents, return FAA Form 8710-1 and all documents to the applicant.

(1) Inform the applicant of the reasons for ineligibility and explain how the applicant may correct the discrepancies.

(2) Reschedule the appointment if requested to do so.

*I. Conduct Practical Test.* After determining that the applicant is eligible and meets all prerequisites for the certificate sought, accept FAA Form 8710-1 and conduct the practical test IAW the guidance in the recreational pilot PTS and chapter 5. If the practical test is not completed for reasons other than unsatisfactory performance, issue a letter of discontinuance to the applicant. (See chapter 5, section 2, paragraph 3C.)

*J. Unsatisfactory Performance.* If the applicant did not meet the applicable standards for the certificate sought, inform the applicant of the reasons for the unsatisfactory performance.

(1) Prepare FAA Form 8060-5 IAW the guidance in chapter 5, section 1, paragraph 27.

(2) Sign, date, and check the appropriate boxes on the form. Give the applicant a copy of the Notice of Disapproval of Application and retain the original for the certification file.

(3) Retain FAA Form 8710-1 and return all other submitted documents to the applicant.

(4) Sign an entry in the applicant's records after the practical test. That entry must show the type of test, the duration of the flight portion, the unsatisfactory outcome of the test, and the examiner's designation number.

*K. Satisfactory Performance.* When the applicant has met all requirements for the certificate sought, prepare FAA Form 8060-4 IAW the guidance in chapter 5, section 1, paragraph 25.

(1) Enter the notation "Holder does not meet ICAO requirements" and enter all appropriate limitations.

(2) Verify that all information on FAA Form 8060-4 is correct. Sign the Temporary Airman Certificate and direct the applicant to sign line VII.

(3) Retain the original for the certification file and give the applicant the copy of the temporary certificate.

(4) Sign an entry in the applicant's records after the practical test. That entry must show the type of test, the duration of the flight portion, the successful outcome of the test, and the examiner's designation number.

*L. Complete the Certification File.* Complete the certification file IAW the guidance in chapter 5, section 1, paragraph 23.

(1) Mail the completed certification file to the supervising FSDO not later than five days after the completion of the practical test.

(2) Airman Certification and/or Rating Application (ACRA) certification files may be sent directly to the FAA Airmen Certification Branch, AFS-760.

**4. TASK OUTCOMES.** Completion of this task results in the issuance of a temporary airman certificate, a notice of disapproval of application, or a letter of discontinuance.

**5. FUTURE ACTIVITIES.**

A. The applicant may return for an additional category or class rating.

B. The applicant may return to upgrade the recreational pilot certificate to a private pilot certificate.



## FIGURE 8-1. RECREATIONAL PILOT CERTIFICATE

I. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION II. TEMPORARY AIRMAN CERTIFICATE		III. CERTIFICATE NO. <b>PENDING</b>					
VII. AIRMAN'S SIGNATURE  <i>Brian Scott Doe</i>	THIS CERTIFICATE THAT IV. <b>BRIAN SCOTT DOE</b>  V. <b>8578 BLUE GREY CIRCLE</b> <b>BULL RUN, VA 21210</b>						
	DATE OF BIRTH	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR	EYES	SEX	NATIONALITY VI.
	<b>1/08/63</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>BROWN</b>	<b>BROWN</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>USA</b>
	IX. has been found to be properly qualified and is hereby authorized in accordance with the conditions of issuance on the reverse of this certificate to exercise the privileges of  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>RECREATIONAL PILOT</b></div>						
	RATING AND LIMITATIONS XII. <b>AIRPLANE SINGLE-ENGINE LAND</b>						
	XIII. <b>HOLDER DOES NOT MEET ICAO REQUIREMENTS</b>						
	THIS IS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AN ORIGINAL ISSUANCE    A REISSUANCE OF THIS GRADE OF CERTIFICATE				DATE OF SUPERSEDED AIRMAN CERTIFICATE  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>10/05/04</b></div>		
BY DIRECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR					EXAMINER'S DESIGNATION NO. OR INSPECTOR'S REG. NO. <div style="text-align: center;"><b>AE-07-4321</b></div>		
X. DATE OF ISSUANCE  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>6/3/05</b></div>		X. SIGNATURE OF EXAMINER OR INSPECTOR  <div style="text-align: center;"><i>Jonathon H. Smith</i> <b>JONATHON H. SMITH</b></div>			DATE DESIGNATION EXPIRES  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>1/31/06</b></div>		

FAA Form 8060-4 (8-79)

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